

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

Sherri Lee Blackstone,

Case No. 5:21cv2178

Plaintiff,

JUDGE PAMELA A. BARKER

-vs-

Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Parker

**Kilolo Kijakazi,
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,**

**MEMORANDUM OPINION
AND ORDER**

Defendant.

This matter is before the Court upon the Report and Recommendation of Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Parker (Doc. No. 12), recommending that the decision of the Commissioner be vacated and remanded for further proceedings. The Commissioner filed a response indicating that she will not be filing Objections to the Report & Recommendation. (Doc. No. 13.) For the following reasons, the Report and Recommendation is ADOPTED. The decision of the Commissioner is VACATED and the case is REMANDED for further consideration consistent with the Report & Recommendation.

I. Background

On November 16, 2021, Plaintiff Sherri Lee Blackstone filed a Complaint (Doc. No. 1) challenging the final decision of the Defendant Commissioner of Social Security (“Commissioner”), denying her applications for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income under Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 416(i), 423, and 1381 *et seq.* (“Act”). Pursuant to Local Rule 72.2(b), the case was referred to Magistrate Judge Parker.

On August 17, 2022, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report and Recommendation, in which he found that the ALJ had failed to apply proper legal standards in explaining why she discounted Blackstone's fibromyalgia pain symptoms. (Doc. No. 12.) The Magistrate Judge, therefore, recommended that the decision of the Commissioner denying Blackstone's applications for benefits be vacated and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with the Report & Recommendation. (*Id.*) Objections to the Report and Recommendation were to be filed within 14 days of service, i.e., by no later than August 31, 2022. The Commissioner filed a Response on August 31, 2022 indicating that she will not be filing Objections to the Report & Recommendation. (Doc. No. 13.)

II. Standard of Review

The applicable standard of review of a Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation depends upon whether objections were made to that report. When objections are made, the district court reviews the case *de novo*. Specifically, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b) states in pertinent part:

The district judge must determine *de novo* any part of the magistrate judge's disposition that has been properly objected to. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommended disposition; receive further evidence; or return the matter to the magistrate judge with instruction.

Although the standard of review when no objections are made is not expressly addressed in Rule 72, the Advisory Committee Notes to that Rule provide that "[w]hen no timely objection is filed, the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation." *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72, Advisory Committee Notes. Moreover, in *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985), the United States Supreme Court explained that "[i]t does not appear that

Congress intended to require district court review of a magistrate judge's factual or legal conclusions, under a *de novo* or any other standard, when neither party objects to those findings."

III. Analysis and Conclusion

Here, as stated above, no objections were filed to the Report and Recommendation of Magistrate Judge Parker that the decision of the Commissioner be vacated and the case remanded. This Court has nonetheless carefully and thoroughly reviewed the Report and Recommendation and agrees with the findings set forth therein. The Report and Recommendation of Magistrate Judge Parker is, therefore, ADOPTED. The decision of the Commissioner denying Plaintiff's application for disability insurance benefits and supplemental security income is VACATED and the case is REMANDED for further proceedings consistent with the Report & Recommendation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: September 1, 2022

s/Pamela A. Barker
PAMELA A. BARKER
U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE